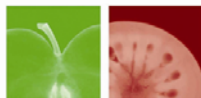




Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes

The Food Groups in Berks, Bucks, & MK and Oxfordshire work as a federation - BBO Food Groups - and are supported by the South East England Development Agency and by various local authorities and sponsors.



Monthly Update from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Group

December 1st 2008

NUMBER 18

Dear Food Group Members:

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group.

Click on the links below to skip to:

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Please note that our Monthly Updates are now posted on the News page of our website www.local-food.net

If you no longer wish to be part of this mailing list, or if you receive this message twice, please email

localfood@brookes.ac.uk

Public Procurement Opportunity

BBO Food Group Members will market their products at County Hall, Oxford on Thursday 4th December as part of a bid to put more local food on the county's menus. The event runs from 11.30am to 2pm and is being run with Oxfordshire County Council's catering division, Food With Thought.

Councillor Roger Belson, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development is supporting the initiative. "Food With Thought sources meat from local farms for some school meals already, so we know that purchasing to minimise food miles and support the local economy is achievable. Because the event will be during lunchtime it will give staff at County Hall a chance to taste products and give us their comments so that we can source local food for the Common Hall Café as well."

At the event will be:

- Pork, beef and lamb from **Foxbury Farm** and **The Meat Joint**
- Bread, pastries and cakes from **The Old Farmhouse Bakery**
- Mustards and salad dressings from **Shaken Oak Products**
- Cakes and biscuits from **The Cake Makers**
- Flour from **FWP Matthews**
- Flapjacks and biscuits from **Doves Farm**
- Free range eggs from **Beechwood Eggs**
- Yoghurt and dairy products from **Tim's Dairy**

Also attending the event will be Sue Edridge from Oxfordshire County Council, who sources ingredients and plans menus. Catering staff and advisers from other local authorities have been invited to join us to consider putting local food on their menus.

If members have any queries about this event please phone Tamara 01865 484116 or Jacqui Mansfield 01865 726997/ 07977136024

News

Berkshire Life Magazine BBO Food Group members **The Fine Beef Company, Copas Turkeys, Stanlake Park, Two Hoots Cheese and Susie's Preserves** feature among producers in the Festive Fare article in the December edition of Berkshire & Chilterns Life Magazine.

Escape to the Country television programme is looking for someone to feature on the show. The criteria are someone who has given up the city life, taken on a small holding and now sell their produce.

If interested please contact Jason Bounds, Assistant Producer, Escape to the Country
talkback Thames
77 Woodside Road,
Amersham,
Bucks,
HP6 6AA

Tel: 01494 733532
Jason.Bounds@talkbackthames.tv

Grants

SEEDA and **EEDA** have awarded the rural economy of the Chilterns a grant of £2.5 million to support local farming and forestry businesses over the next five years. Expressions of interest are required for grants of up to £50,000 for schemes that support local agriculture and forestry and increase the availability of local produce.

Contact Chris Jankiewicz email
Chris.Jankiewicz@ngagesolutions.co.uk

GRASSROOTS GRANTS aim to boost local community organisations with much-needed access to small grants and long-term financing through an endowment fund. Since launching in September, Grassroots Grants has made 1000 grants to local community groups. Local community groups with annual incomes below £20,000 can apply for grants of £250 to £5000.

For further information look at the website www.cdf.org.uk and look at the Grassroots Grants section.

Local community groups should apply directly to their Local Funder. Details are listed below:

Bracknell Forest	Berkshire Community Foundation	0118 9
Buckinghamshire	The Buckinghamshire Community Foundation	01296
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Community Foundation	01908

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Community
Foundation

01865
798666

Events

Food Glorious Food at Living Heritage Game & Country Fair

– food group members are invited to take a stand at this show at Thame Showground on April 11th, 12th & 13th.

Shedding units are available at the following rates:

10ft frontage x 10ft depth £150

20ft frontage x 10ft depth £195

20ft frontage x 20ft depth £300

For further details please contact show organiser Mark Hulme 01283 820548

Cogges Manor Farm Museum Food Weekend Witney, Oxfordshire 18th & 19th April 2009

Accommodating 15 tables in the barns, plus gazebos in the yard (to be held down with sand bags and not pegs). Some space available in the Manor House.

Cost £10 (donation) per day.

If interested please contact Lorraine Horne Publicity & Marketing Officer Cogges Manor Farm Museum Church Lane, Witney, Oxon OX28 3LA or Francesca Jones on 01993 772602.

Training

Below is a list of the courses which Vale Training Centre near Aylesbury is planning to run up to the end of January. Places are available on all the sessions listed, and funding will be available to all those eligible.

Just a few reminders regarding certification. It is recommended by the Health and Safety Executive that training and certification is refreshed every 3-5 years, depending on the frequency with which an operation is carried out. This applies to all industry sectors, and covers courses such as Food Hygiene, First Aid, Forklift Operation, Spraying, Chainsaw Operation etc. This is particularly important to the agricultural sector that has one of the worst industry sectors incidence of fatal accidents and a prevalence of self reported illness.

No matter what industry sector you are involved in, a high importance should be placed on risk assessment and the management of training. This is particularly important at the moment given the financial climate. It's very easy to cut training budgets, but not so easy to deal with the consequences of inappropriately trained staff.

Please visit the web site at www.valetraining.co.uk for course outlines

Course	Date	Cost	Grant %
One day First Aid	December	75	40
Basic Arc Welding	1 st & 8 th December	£195	55
Sheep Stock Tasks	4 th December	£95	70
Pa1	5 th December	£95	40
Bacon Curing	6 th December	£115	55
Sausage Making	7 th December	£115	55
Vermin Control	9 th December	£100	40
Pa 2	12 th December	£95	40
PA6	15 th December	£95	40
Basic Tractor Driving	30 December	£95	40
Hedge laying	January 2009	£175	70
Meat Processing	January	£115	70
Basic Chainsaw	19 th & 20 th January	£240	40
Intermediate food Hygiene	19-20 January 2009	£375	55
Brush Cutters	21 st January	£105	40
Working at Heights	22 January	£90	40
Risk assessment	23 January	£95	40
Experienced fork lift	26 th January	£150	40
Chainsaw refresher	28 th January	£125	40
Basic Tree inspection	29 th January	£150	70
Small tree Felling	January	£330	40

Full details of courses and booking forms for the open Training Programme at Vale Training are available to see on the food group website www.local-food.net covering the period from now until May 2009.

The next newsletter will be in January 2009, so we wish you

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Contact Us

BBO Food Groups

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Oxford, OX3 0BP

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For previous newsletter please visit www.local-food.net